

## **Questions & Answers to RFP USDC-DC-0002-06**

(March 17, 2006)

The Clerk's Trustee Fund of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (USDC-DC) prepared the following answers to questions submitted from vendors on RFP USDC-DC-0002096 for the design, configuration, and installation of a WiFi network.

Please Note: The proposed due date for proposal submission has not changed. Proposals in response to this solicitation are due by 4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) April 7, 2006 at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, Attn: Nancy Mayer-Whittington, Custodian of the Clerk's Trustee Fund, Room 1824, E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse, 333 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

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Section C.2 - Please provide guidance as to the quantity of simultaneous users of the WLAN in any given courtroom at any given time. The response will help to identify bandwidth and design constraints.

Answer: In a worse case scenario, there can be 145 simultaneous users in all courtrooms.

Section C.2 - Please confirm the use of fiber optic cabling between the telecommunications closets and access points.

Answer: The use of fiber optic cabling between closet switches and access points is optional. However, it must be CAT6 at a minimum.

Section C.2 - Section C.2 states training operating the equipment. How many DC technical staff requires operations training.

Answer: At least two.

What technologies have staff been trained?

Answer: What prerequisites are you looking for?

Section C.2 - Section C.2 identifies simultaneous activity in 15 to 20 courtrooms. How many workstations or laptops are required per courtroom?

Answer: In a worse case scenario, there can be 145 simultaneous wireless access devices in all courtrooms.

Section C.2 - Section C.2 states User access shall be compatible with 802.11 A, B, and G and interoperable with a wide range of client devices. What are some examples of client devices?

Answer: Netgear, Hawking, Intel, Linksys, etc.

Are users going to be able to connect their laptop, wireless device to the wireless network?

Answer: Yes.

Section C.2 - Section C.2 states the proposed network shall coexist with existing portable radios. What portable radios systems are used?

Answer: Disregard, not an issue.

Section C.2.2 - Please quantify the terms “sufficient bandwidth” and “reasonable response time.” The option for a single dedicated T-1 connection may be inadequate to provide sufficient bandwidth and reasonable response time if the quantity of simultaneous users exceeds 50.

Answer: At this time, a T-1 connection shall be used to start with.

Section C.2.2 - Will the Building Plan (Attachment 2) be provided in both hard copy and electronic format (e.g., AutoCAD files)?

Answer: Only hard copy format will be available.

Section C.2.2 - Please specify the cable label specifications required by the Trustee Fund.

Answer: Row-rack-switch-module-port

Section C.2.2 - Please confirm that adequate space is available in the designated telecommunications closets for the WLAN equipment.

Answer: Yes, adequate space is available.

Section C.2.3 - RFP Section C.2.3 states antiviral software, firewalls, and intrusion detection systems shall be installed. Does the District Court have infrastructure standards for these products?

Answer: Yes

Section C.2.3 - Section C.2.3 states the contractor shall provide immediate notification ... of any security violation on the network. This will be the case if the option is exercised correct?

Answer: Yes

Section C.2.4 - Please identify the time limit the Trustee Fund will have to review and approve the Installation Plan.

Answer: 15 days.

Section C.2.4 - Section C.2.4 states the written Installation Plan will be provided within 15 days after contract award. However, Sections C.3.2 and C.3.9 state the written Installation Plan is not due until 30 days after contract award. Please clarify which delivery period is correct.

Answer: 15 days.

Section C.2.5 - Please clarify if Cisco equipment is preferred as compared to other manufacturer's equipment.

Answer: No comment.

Section C.2.5 - Please clarify if the WLAN will be expanded beyond the 29 courtrooms; public areas on floors 1, 2, 4, and 6; and the cafeteria in the Main Courthouse and Annex.

\_\_\_\_\_Answer: There is the possibility that the WLAN could be expanded in the future; therefore, the WLAN infrastructure should be scalable.

Section C.2.6 - Please define the term "high speed access."

Answer: At a maximum speed those network devices can provide.

Section C.2.6 - Please define the term "efficiency requirements" and define the criteria to "pass" the efficiency requirements.

Answer: Minimize its need for computing resources and personnel resources.

Section C.2.6 - Section C.2.6 states the Contractor shall ensure the testing: validates the requirements and the correct operation of the wireless network; passes efficiency requirements. However, there are no efficiency requirements or technical requirements defined. Will there be a requirements definition phase?

Answer: Yes.

Section C.2.8.1 - Please define the process that will be used by the Trustee Fund to approve the users of the Courthouse Wireless Network.

Answer: A list of approved users will be forwarded to support staff for granting network access.

Section C.2.8.2 - Please confirm the use of Cisco monitoring software is a requirement of this system.

Answer: Not required.

For project planning purposes, what is the expected award date?

Answer: To be determined.

For architecture consideration, do the District Courts have an existing WiFi infrastructure for private (Internal) courts use only?

Answer: No

Section C.3.2 - Given the fixed price nature of this project, please clarify the need to “identify any parts and consumables” in the Installation Plan.

Answer: No comment.

Section F.2 and L.1 - A firm fixed price for installation may not be possible if the Courthouse is subject to statutory or other special constraints due to its historic status. The site survey may not be enough to identify and price for potential risk. Is the building on the National Register of Historic Places or otherwise subject to constraints that might affect the cost of installation?

Answer: Yes

If so, would the Government consider time & materials bids if prospective offerors would otherwise find firm fixed price too risky.

Answer: No. As part of the proposal, offerors may include conditions and assumptions on the cost of installation after they attend the site survey. The Trustee Fund may renegotiate an installation price based on the variation from the conditions and assumptions.

Section F.12 - Section F.12 identifies three dates for site surveys each starting at 10:00 am. What is the scheduled ending time for the survey?

Answer: If multiple vendors are scheduled on a same day, each vendor will be limited to 2 hours.

Section F.12 - Section F.12 identifies three site survey dates. Can a vendor participate in multiple dates if needed to complete the thorough assessment of the Court sites in order to determine number of access points?

Answer: Yes, if there is no schedule conflict.

Can a vendor bring tools (i.e., laptops, etc.) to conduct thorough technical assessment?

Answer: Yes. However, cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the Courthouse.